

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:  
populating a directory with entries for each of a plurality of users of a multi-user  
5 computing environment, wherein each entry in the directory comprises a  
user ID and one or more group names;  
determining a first group access control list for a first one of the group names in  
the directory, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user  
IDs of users whose directory entries comprise the first group name;  
10 for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits  
access by the first group name, granting access to the data source to the  
users in the first group access control list.
2. The method of claim 1,  
15 wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password; and  
wherein the method further comprises authenticating each user ID using the  
associated user password.
3. The method of claim 1,  
20 wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of  
hostnames;  
wherein the directory comprises a first hostname; and  
wherein the method further comprises:  
25 for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which  
permits access by the first hostname, granting access to the data  
source to the one or more users whose directory entries comprise  
the first hostname and who are seeking access from the host  
having the first hostname.

4. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the data source comprises a file or a directory in a file system coupled to  
the multi-user computing environment.

5 5. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the access comprises read access; and  
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access  
control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control  
list to read the data source.

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6. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the access comprises write access; and  
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access  
control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control  
list to write to the data source.

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7. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the access comprises execute access; and  
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access  
control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control  
list to execute the data source.

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8. The method of claim 1,  
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits  
access by the first group name and owner but denies access to others,  
denying access to the data source to users who are not in the first group  
access control list and who are not the owner of the data source.

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9. The method of claim 1,

wherein the multi-user computing environment comprises a UNIX-based operating system.

10. A system comprising:

5 a file system which comprises one or more data sources including a first data source;

a directory server which is operable to store a plurality of directory entries for a plurality of users, wherein each directory entry comprises a user ID and one or more group names which denote groups to which the user ID belongs, wherein at least one of the directory entries comprises a first group name; and

10 a first group access control list which is generated from the directory entries, wherein the first group access control list comprises the at least one user IDs belonging to the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is usable to permit access to the first data source to user IDs belonging to the first group name.

11. The system of claim 10,

20 wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password, wherein the user password is usable to authenticate the corresponding user ID for access to the one or more data sources.

12. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

a host computer system coupled to the file system;

25 wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of host names such that the directory server comprises a first host name corresponding to the host computer system, and wherein access is granted to the first data sources to users seeking access from the host computer system.

13. The system of claim 10,  
wherein the access to the first data source comprises read access.
- 5 14. The system of claim 10,  
wherein the access to the first data source comprises write access.
15. The system of claim 10,  
wherein the access to the first data source comprises execute access.
- 10 16. The system of claim 10, further comprising:  
an operating system which is operable to restrict user access to the data sources in  
the file system.
- 15 17. A carrier medium comprising program instructions which are computer-  
executable to implement:  
populating a directory with entries for each of a plurality of users of a multi-user  
computing environment, wherein each entry in the directory comprises a  
user ID and one or more group names;  
20 determining a first group access control list for a first one of the group names in  
the directory, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user  
IDs of users whose directory entries comprise the first group name;  
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits  
access by the first group name, granting access to the data source to the  
25 users in the first group access control list.
18. The carrier medium of claim 17,  
wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password; and

wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement authenticating each user ID using the associated user password.

19. The carrier medium of claim 17,

5 wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of hostnames;

wherein the directory comprises a first hostname; and

wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement :

10 for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first hostname, granting access to the data source to the one or more users whose directory entries comprise the first hostname and who are seeking access from the host having the first hostname.

15 20. The carrier medium of claim 17,

wherein the data source comprises a file or a directory in a file system coupled to the multi-user computing environment.

21. The carrier medium of claim 17,

20 wherein the access comprises read access; and

wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to read the data source.

25 22. The carrier medium of claim 17,

wherein the access comprises write access; and

wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to write to the data source.

23. The carrier medium of claim 17,  
wherein the access comprises execute access; and  
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access  
5 control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control  
list to execute the data source.

24. The carrier medium of claim 17, wherein the program instructions are further  
computer-executable to implement:

10 for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits  
access by the first group name and owner but denies access to others,  
denying access to the data source to users who are not in the first group  
access control list and who are not the owner of the data source.

15 25. The carrier medium of claim 17,  
wherein the multi-user computing environment comprises a UNIX-based  
operating system.